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MAY 24 2007

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An active electrode composition, comprising:  
a nickel hydroxide material;  
a cobalt or a cobalt oxide material;  
a graphite having a crystallite height  $L_c$  of at least 125 nm; and  
a polymeric binder,  
wherein said active composition comprises at least 10 weight percent of said graphite material.
2. (ORIGINAL) The active composition of claim 1, wherein said active composition is a paste.
3. (ORIGINAL) The active composition of claim 1, wherein said polymeric binder is an elastomeric polymer.
4. (ORIGINAL) The active composition of claim 3, wherein said elastomeric polymer is a material selected from the group consisting of styrene-butadiene, styrene-butadiene block copolymer, styrene-isoprene-styrene block copolymer and styrene-ethylene-butadiene-styrene block copolymer.

5. (ORIGINAL) The active composition of claim 1, wherein said graphite has a crystallite height  $L_c$  of at least 175 nm.
6. (ORIGINAL) The active composition of claim 1, wherein said graphite has an interlayer distance  $c/2$  between .335 nm and .345 nm.
7. (ORIGINAL) The active composition of claim 1, wherein said graphite material has a BET surface area less than 15 square meters per gram.
8. (CANCELLED)
9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An electrode for a battery cell, comprising:
  - a nickel hydroxide material;
  - a cobalt or a cobalt oxide material;
  - a graphite having a crystallite size  $L_c$  of at least 125 nm; and
  - a polymeric binder;

wherein said active composition comprises at least 10 weight percent of said graphite material.
10. (ORIGINAL) The electrode of claim 9, wherein said polymeric binder is an elastomeric polymer.

11. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The electrode of claim 9, wherein said electrode comprises a paste.
12. (ORIGINAL) The electrode of claim 10, wherein said elastomeric polymer comprises a material selected from the group consisting of styrene-butadiene, styrene-butadiene block copolymer, styrene-isoprene-styrene block copolymer and styrene-ethylene-butadiene-styrene block copolymer.
13. (ORIGINAL) The electrode of claim 9, wherein said graphite has a crystallite height  $L_c$  is at least 175 nm.
14. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The electrode of claim 9, wherein said electrode is affixed to a conductive substrate, said substrate selected from the group consisting expanded metal, perforated metal, screen or foil.
15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A nickel-metal hydride battery cell, comprising:  
a positive electrode comprising an active composition comprising a nickel hydroxide material, a graphite material having a crystallite height of at least 125 nm, and a polymeric binder; and a cobalt or a cobalt oxide material;  
a negative electrode comprising a hydrogen storage alloy active material; and  
an alkaline electrolyte;  
wherein said active composition comprises at least 10 weight percent of said graphite material.

16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The battery cell of claim 15, wherein said polymeric binder is an elastomeric polymer.

17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~electrochemical device~~ battery cell of claim 15, wherein said negative electrode comprises a paste.

18. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~electrochemical device~~ battery cell of claim 16, wherein said elastomeric polymer comprises a material selected from the group consisting of styrene-butadiene, styrene-butadiene block copolymer, styrene-isoprene-styrene block copolymer and styrene-ethylene-butadiene-styrene block copolymer.

19. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~electrochemical device~~ battery cell of claim 15, wherein said graphite has a crystallite height  $L_c$  of at least 175 nm.

20. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~electrochemical device~~ electrochemical composition of claim 1, wherein at least 90% wt of the graphite is particles are greater than 15 microns.